

Eddie Perez Jr

18 Rockingham St, Hartford CT 06114

February 17, 2022

RE: Department of Education's Legislative Agenda

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee

My name is Eddie Perez Jr and I am from Hartford. I have one son who attends Academy of Science and Innovation in New Britain and another son who attends Anna Grace Academy of the Arts in Bloomfield, which both are CREC Magnet Schools. I am asking you to please support an increase

in the RESC state magnet grant. My children benefit greatly through the extraordinary opportunity they experience every day at ASI & Anna Grace. This diverse and engaging learning environment with science and arts benefit both of my sons by exposing them to the arts and sciences that they would not have the access to otherwise. They are both getting hands on experience in the arts and sciences that they love. They have developed personally and academically since attending CREC schools. Additionally, I know my sons learn better and are more prepared for the real world because of the diverse background of their classmates and staff they work alongside with.

alongside other students from different backgrounds.

Our magnet schools are at risk. Without sustainable funding, CREC which operates 16

Innovative schools, will be forced to either cut programming or to increase the tuition costs they charge to local school districts.

I am asking the legislature to follow through on its promise to invest in the future of all students. Magnet schools have a successful track record of providing their students a chance to thrive. Currently the Sheff Stipulated Agreement requires the expansion of schools and program, before you add any more schools, please adequately fund those that you have established and that are thriving. I urge you to continue funding the schools that are already operating and available and have demonstrated success before you consider funding new school choice options.